

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

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R 070903Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5096

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: ROC COMMENT ON CANCELLATION OF US TOUR BY PRC
PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE

REF: TAIPEI 1576 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PAPERS CARRIED STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTS ON THE CANCELLATION OF THE PRC PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE ON MARCH 29 AND 30 AS REPORTED REFTEL. LIMITED COMMENTARY HAS APPEARED SINCE THEN IN THE CHUNG YANG JIH PAO (CYJP), TZU LI WAN PAO (TLWP) CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO AND CHINA NEWS. ALL PAPERS COMMENTED ON US ACTION IN VERY POSITIVE VEIN WITH THE CYJP AND TLWP SUGGESTING THAT THE ACTION WAS IN THE TLWP'S WORDS APRIL 7 "A HARD BLOW FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF US-PRC RELATIONS."

2. THE APRIL 6 CYJP REPORT WAS A SPECIAL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ITS REPORTER IN THE US WANG SZU-YU (3769/0843/0147). WANG LINKED THE US ACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CONCERN THE THE US HAS "RECENTLY SUFFERED A SERIES OF REVERSALS IN THE MIDDLE, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PORTUGAL" AND THE
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POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRC MIGHT "DEMAND MORE AND MORE

CONCESSIONS FROM THE US." WANG ALSO COMMENTED THAT WELL-INFORMED DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON BELIEVED THAT ALLOWING THE PRC TO OPENLY PUBLICIZE ITS DETERMINATION TO LIBERATE TAIWAN ON US SOIL WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO ADDING A NEW FOOTNOTE TO THE NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS. HE ADDED, " FORTUNATELY THE USG ADHERED TO PRINCIPLE AND WAS FULLY AWARE OF SUCH A DIRTY TRICK AND THE PRC THEREFORE WAS HUMILIATED." HE CRITICIZED THE USG FOR "PRESERVING THE PRC'S FACE" BY REFRAINING FROM DISCLOSING THE GENUINE PICTURE OF THE WHOLE INCIDENT.

3. A SPECIAL ARTICLE IN THE APRIL 7 TZU LI WAN PO WAS EVEN MORE POSITIVE ABOUT THE US ACTION COMMENTING THAT THE DECISION "HAS LED US TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OBSCURE DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN THE PAST ---- PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO PEKING THIS AUTUMN LED US TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECT AND TO THINK THE US MIGHT BETRAY ITS CLOSE ALLY UNDER ITS DETENTE POLICY. HOWEVER, THE FIRM ACTION RECENTLY TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TOWARD THE PRC HAS LED US TO BELIEVE THAT NO MATTER WHAT GAME THE US IS PLAYING, THE US STILL ADHERES TO PRINCIPLE AT A CRITICAL MOMENT. THIS IS VERY GRATIFYING WHILE DETENTE IS PREVAILING."

4. AN APRIL 9 CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "FREE CHINA PERSERVERES" DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF THE ROC WITHOUT PRESIDENT CHIANG. THE EDITORIAL NOTED THE VISIT WAS CANCELED BECAUSE THE TROUPE'S SONGS CALLED FOR THE "LIBERATION OF TAIWAN" AND IMPLICITLY SAW THIS ACTION AS FURTHER PROOF OF THE STRONG SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP.

5. ON APRIL 11 THE TLWP COMMENTED EDITORIALY ON US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN GENERAL NOTING THAT THE CANCELLATION OF THE TROUPE'S TOUR, THE "CRISIS" OVER THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION, AND PEKING'S REJECTION OF US INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL TAOISM CONVENTION WERE ALL "STRANGE PHENOMENA". THE PAPER WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE PRC SEEMS TO BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE, AND CITED US PRESS SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S CANCELLATION OF THE VARIETY TROUPE AS PROOF THAT PEKING IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"EXPOSING ITS UGLY SIDE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE".
POPPL

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NNN

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